SI. No.	Name of district	Waiting List As on 31.01.97	Date by which all connection are likely to be given.
26.	Sawaimadhopur	2692 *I*	Jan. 98
27.	Sikar	9126	March 98
28.	Sirohi	3310	Dec. 97
29.	Sriganganagar	8167	March 98
30.	Tonk	1524	Oct. 97
31.	Udaipur	6790	Oct. 97
	Total:	193210	

Note:—The above activity is likely to be completed subject to availbility of equipment & stores.

New Policy for Postal Services

1193. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new policy fbr postal services in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VAR-MA): (a) Postal services are being provided by opening of Post Offices, under Annual Plan Schemes, subject to norm based justification and availability of resources, A scheme of licenced Stamp Vendors is also available for sale of postal stamps and stationery. Apart from these a scheme called the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojna was introduced in 1995-96 to provide basic postal facilities in Gram Panchayat villages.

(b) The details of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojna are given in Statement *(See* below).

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Statement

Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana

OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME:

The objective of the Scheme is to provide basic postal and telecommunications facilities to the Gram Panchayat which are still without post offices. In this scheme, the panchayat will be the nodal point for retailing some of the basic services like sale of stamps and postal stationery, collection and delivery of letters, booking of registered articles, etc.

FUNCTIONS:

The functions given below shall be performed by the Panchayat Kendra unless other wise specified by the Department:—

(a) Booking of registered letters except VP and Insured articles;

(b) Sale of postage stamps and postal stationery;

(c) Grant of certificate of posting;

(d) Operation of Mahila Samridhi Yojana Scheme, where fasible;

(e) Collection and delivery of mail including clearance of letter boxes, where feasible;

(f) Propogation of small Savings Scheme and Rural Postal Life Insurance; and

(gj Other functions of Branch Post Office as and when the. Department is satisfied that Kcndias are able to discharge them.

In addition the following optional functions may be given to the Sanchar Kendra In-charge by Supdtt./Sr. Supdtt. Post offices of concerned division.

Conveyance of mail from Account Office or nearest post office to Sanchar Kcndra and vice-versa.

The Sanchar Kendra Agent under the scheme shall also be entrusted with operation of STEVPCOPanchayat Phone, sub ject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria and terms and conditions laid down by Department Telecommunications, in villages where such facility does not exist at present. The existing PCO holders in villages can also be utilised as Sanchar Kendra Agents.

Salient features:

Participation of the Gram Panchayats in the Scheme will be voluntary.

An unemployed educated youth from within the Panchayat areas whose minimum educational qualification should be matriculation on being selected by Gram Panchayat with the written consent of the Supdtt./Sr. Supdtt. will perform the postal functions within the areas of the Panchayat.

The person so identified will act as an age in of the Panchayat for operating the scheme. However, for the purpose of operation of this scheme, the Panchayat will enter into an agreement with the Department of Post.

Gram Panchayat will earmark a suitable place, preferably a building owned by it, for locating the Panchayat Sanchar Scwa Kendra. The location of the kendra will not change with the change of incumbent.

Postal facilities would be made available to the people on all days of the week, except Sundays and Postal holidays. The business hours will be fixed by the Superintendent of Post offices according to the convenience, and needs of the local people and shall be duly notified. However, for operating STD/PCO/Gram Panchayat Phones, working days and hours as specified by the Telecommunica-tion authorities shall be maintained.

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa gendras will be established in Gram Panchayat Head-quarters villages.

The Gram Panchayat will be accountable to the Department of Post for ensuring proper and efficient postal services through Panchayat Sanchar Sewa kendra.

The Sanchar Sewa Kendra will also be subject to regular supervision and inspection by the Department of Post.

Remuneration/Commission:

A fixed allowance of Rs. 300/- per month for providing counter services and for collection, conveyance and delivery of mail wherever permitted will, be paid.

The agent of the Panchayat will be compensated for other postal services provided in the Panchayat areas by payment of:—

(a) A commission of 5% of the value of stamps/stationery will be allowed at the time of purchase in normal rural areas. In hilly and tribal areas, commission at the following rates will be allowed:—

(i) On sale up to Rs. 100 5%
(ii) On sale from Rs. 101 to Rs. 2007.5% (iii) On sale from Rs. 201 and above 10%

A commission of 50 paise for booking and delivery of a registered article.

(c) Commission at the prescribed rates for handling Mahila Samriddhi Yojana Accounts.

(d) Commission at prescribed rates for propogating Postal Life Insurance and National Savings Scheme.

(e) Commission at the rates to be prescribed for providing other services.

For operating STD/PCO/Gram Panchayat Phone, Commission as prescribed by the Department of Telecommunications shall be paid.

A system of rewarding the best Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra in a Postal Circle will be introduced in order to encourage and motivate the Panchayat to ensure efficient postal services in the area.